



Vocabulary

Agriculture: The process of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock.

Climate: The temperature, winds, and humidity patterns occurring year after year. For example, “Arizona has a desert climate. It’s almost always very dry and gets extremely hot on summer days.”

Environment: All the things and conditions that surround a person, animal, plant or object and affect its health, growth, development, or character in any way.

False Color Image: An image created by representing various types of environmental data as colors (for example, cities could be shown as yellow or warm water could be shown as red). A false color image doesn’t look like what you’d see with the naked eye.

Geography: The science that deals with the location of living and nonliving things on Earth and the way they affect one another.

Infrared: Heat radiation that is beyond red in the color spectrum. Infrared rays cannot be seen by the naked eye, but can be detected with special cameras.

International Space Station: A spacecraft orbiting the Earth in which microgravity experiments are performed. Sixteen countries contribute to these scientific studies.

Landform: A natural feature of a land surface (e.g., mountains, glaciers, plains, rivers)

Pollution: The result or process of spoiling a place (the action of polluting) with substances that aren’t normally present.

- Natural examples: smoke and ash fall.
- Human-made examples: acid rain; factory and human waste disposed of in bodies of water.

Radiation: The process in which energy is emitted (given off) as particles or waves. Examples of radiation are: light, infrared and ultraviolet radiation, and X-rays.

Remote Sensing: Using various forms of technology to observe something at a distance.

Satellite: An object that orbits the Earth, moon, or other heavenly body. Our moon is a satellite of the Earth.

Sensor: A device sensitive to light, temperature, radiation level, or the other property, that transmits a signal to a measuring or control instrument that converts the signal into understandable data.

Urban Development: The process of planning, building, and developing (adding to) a city.

Weather: The state of the atmosphere for a short time (e.g., temperature, humidity, cloudiness, rain, hurricanes, tornados, snowfall). For example, “The weather report says it will be rainy and cold tomorrow.”